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UNCLASSIFIED SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 01634

SIPDIS

SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP//  
497IG AMHS BOLLING AFB DC//INAGE//  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 001634

SIPDIS

STATE PASS TO AID  
VIENNA FOR BOSNIA  
AID FOR AA/BHR, EUR/RME, BHR/FFP, AND  
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BUDAPEST FOR RFMC/CEE  
STATE FOR IO, IO/PHO, EUR/EEA/RJOHNSON  
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BONN ALSO FOR GSO KAREN KLEMP  
RAMSTEIN FOR DO/LG/XP/IN/POLAD//

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PREF](#) [AORC](#) [EAID](#) [PHUM](#) [HR](#) [AORC](#) [EAID](#) [PHUM](#) [HR](#) [AORC](#) [EAID](#) [PHUM](#) [HR](#) [AORC](#) [EAID](#) [PHUM](#) [HR](#) [BK](#)

SUBJECT: TFSROL: DART FIELD OFFICER'S VISIT WITH  
BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN  
ZENICA

-----  
SUMMARY

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1. ON APRIL 5, DART/ZAGREB FIELD OFFICER HAD AN INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE MEETING WITH MR. FUAD DIDIC, MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND FIELD AFFAIRS IN ZENICA FOR THE BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT. HE IS THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE REGION. FORMERLY A PROFESSOR OF MARXIST PHILOSOPHY AT THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY, MINISTER DIDIC WAS PERSONABLE, ARTICULATE, AND INTELLIGENT. THOUGH HE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND AND SPEAK SOME ENGLISH, HE SPOKE THROUGH A TRANSLATOR.

-----  
MINISTER'S JOB DESCRIPTION

2. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, HIS JOB IS TO PROVIDE AN IMMEDIATE PRESENCE OF AUTHORITY IN HIS (ZENICA) REGION AND TO PROVIDE A "STAIRWAY MODEL OF AUTHORITY TO THE GOVERNMENT IN SARAJEVO". THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD TO BE SOMETHING LIKE A "CHAIN OF COMMAND".

-----  
THE FOUR CANTONS

3. MINISTER DIDIC SAID THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN SARAJEVO HAD DIVIDED BOSNIA INTO FOUR REGIONS OR "CANTONS" (ZENICA, TUZLA, BIHAC, MOSTAR) WITH A MINISTER IN EACH ONE. HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN THE  
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NEW GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED SIX MONTHS AGO IT WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH (1) HELPING THE PEOPLE SURVIVE THE RAVAGES OF WAR, WINTER, AND STARVATION; (2) DEFENDING THEM AGAINST AGGRESSORS. "THESE TASKS HAVE NOW BEEN MET", HE SAID.

-----  
GOVERNMENT AGENDA AND PRIORITIES

4. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, RECONSTRUCTION AND ORGANIZATION OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IS THE FIRST PRIORITY SO THAT PEOPLE AND HUMANITARIAN AID CAN MOVE FREELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE

SECOND PRIORITY IS THE CONTINUED "SAFETY OF THE  
CITIZENRY FROM AGGRESSION, FROM EPIDEMICS, FROM  
ANARCHY, FROM A RETURN TO HUNGER, ETC." THE  
THIRD PRIORITY IS THE REBUILDING OF HOMES,

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ACTION SS-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	OASY-00	EUR-01
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	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PM-00	RP-10	SR-00
	SSO-00	PMB-00	/046W				

-----3FC528 251611Z /38

R 251126Z APR 94  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO USEC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA  
SECSTATE WASHDC 1658  
INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//J3/J4/J5/POLAD//  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2/N22//  
COM SIXTHFLT//N2//  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5/EC POLAD//  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC  
HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J3/J4/J5//  
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SUBJECT: TFSROL: DART FIELD OFFICER'S VISIT WITH  
BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN  
ZENICA

BUSINESSES, AND FACTORIES.

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REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

15. THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT PREVIOUSLY THERE  
WERE LARGE FACTORIES BUILT IN THE BIGGER CITIES  
AND OWNED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HE SAID THE  
ONE IN ZENICA EMPLOYED 100,000 PEOPLE. BECAUSE  
THE SURROUNDING TOWNS AND VILLAGES WERE A SOURCE  
OF CHEAP LABOR, MOST OF THE WORKERS WERE BROUGHT  
IN FROM THE VILLAGES TO WORK. THIS DEPLETED THE  
SMALLER AREAS OF MANPOWER AND TOOK JOBS AWAY FROM  
THE CITY DWELLERS. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WANTS TO  
CHANGE THAT. THEY WANT THE LARGER FACTORIES TO  
BE REPLACED BY SMALLER, MORE MODERN FACTORIES SO  
THAT CITY PEOPLE CAN BE EMPLOYED. THE VILLAGES  
IN OUTLYING AREAS WOULD THEN USE THEIR MANPOWER  
AND RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

PRODUCTION. PERHAPS SMALLER SATELLITE FACTORIES  
WOULD ALSO BE BUILT IN THE RURAL AREAS FOR THE  
MANUFACTURE OF CLOTHING, SPAR  
E PARTS, ETC., HE  
SAID.

-----  
SOME COMMUNITY LEADERS RESIST CHANGE  
-----

16. THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE LEADERS  
IN SOME MUNICIPALITIES WHO ARE RESISTING THE  
INITIATIVES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THIS IS  
BECAUSE THEY ARE PROHIBITED FROM SERVING IN THE  
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NEW GOVERNMENT AS MANY ARE SUSPECTED OF WAR  
CRIMES, PROFITEERING, AND OTHER CRIMINAL  
ACTIVITY. THESE LEADERS ARE IN PROZOR, KISELJAC,  
AND BUSOVACA, (HVO CONTROLLED AREAS) AS WELL AS  
IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS  
HAVING TROUBLE REMOVING THESE LEADERS FROM THEIR  
WELL-ENTRENCHED POSITIONS OF POWER IN THE SMALLER  
COMMUNITIES.

-----  
SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOR  
-----

17. THE MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FINDING  
SKILLED LABOR WILL BE A PROBLEM SINCE SO MANY  
PEOPLE LEFT DURING THE WAR. THERE IS SOME  
ANXIETY THAT ONCE SARAJEVO BECOMES A FULLY  
FUNCTIONAL CITY AGAIN, MANY OF THE TALENTED  
PEOPLE REMAINING IN ZENICA, MOSTAR, AND THE OTHER

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	SSO-00	PMB-00	/046W				

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R 251126Z APR 94  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO USEC BRUSSELS  
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USMISSION GENEVA  
SECSTATE WASHDC 1659  
INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//J3/J4/J5/POLAD//  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//  
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CANTONS WILL MOVE TO SARAJEVO TO FIND WORK BUT  
THE MINISTER WAS OPTIMISTIC AND FELT THAT WITH  
PROPER MOTIVATION AND TRAINING THEY COULD SOMEHOW  
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FIND ENOUGH PEOPLE TO DO THE WORK REQUIRED. "IF  
WE BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME" HE SMILED.

-----  
BOSNIANS DISTRUST EUROPEANS; USA FAVORED  
-----

18. THE MINISTER SAID THAT DURING THE TROUBLE OF  
THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS THE SPIRIT OF THE  
BOSNIAN PEOPLE HAS REMAINED UNDAUNTED. HE WENT  
ON TO SAY THAT MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE  
WORLD, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD AND  
APPRECIATED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT SPIRIT. IT  
WAS U.S. SUPPORT, HE SAID, THAT GAVE THE BOSNIAN  
PEOPLE THE WILL TO CONTINUE TO RESIST AGGRESSION.  
HE SAID THE PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETELY LOST FAITH  
WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE, GREAT  
BRITAIN, GERMANY, AND ITALY. HE WENT ON TO SAY  
THAT HE THOUGHT MANY OF THE PEOPLE IN THOSE  
COUNTRIES SUPPORTED THEIR CAUSE, BUT THAT THE  
GOVERNMENTS DID NOT. HE NOTED THE "RISE OF  
FASCISM AND RACIST INCIDENTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES"  
AS STRONG INDICATIONS THEY WERE "NOT LIKELY TO BE  
SYMPATHETIC TO VICTIMS OF SERB AGGRESSION IN  
BOSNIA." HE SAID THAT EVEN WITHOUT THE MASSIVE  
HUMANITARIAN AID FROM THE USA, THE BOSNIAN PEOPLE  
WOULD HAVE FOUND STRENGTH IN SIMPLY KNOWING THAT  
AMERICANS WERE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR CAUSE. BUT  
THEY DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE HUMANITARIAN AID, HE  
SAID, AND WOULD REMAIN ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.

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PEOPLE FEAR A RETURN TO HUNGER  
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19. ALTHOUGH THERE IS FOOD IN ZENICA NOW, THE  
HUNGER THAT PEOPLE EXPERIENCED IN DECEMBER AND  
JANUARY IS STILL FOREMOST ON THEIR MINDS. EVEN  
THOUGH THEY NOW HAVE AMPLE FOOD TO EAT, THE  
MINISTER SAID, THERE IS GREAT ANXIETY THAT THE  
FOOD WILL RUN OUT AND HUNGER WILL RETURN. THE  
MINISTER SAID THAT 17 PER CENT OF THE LAND AROUND  
ZENICA IS ARABLE AND THAT MORE HAS BEEN  
CULTIVATED THIS YEAR THAN EVER BEFORE.

-----  
FOREIGN INTEREST IN BOSNIAN RESOURCES  
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110. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAD SHOWN

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AN INTEREST IN THE COAL MINES IN CENTRAL BOSNIA.  
ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, THE BRITISH SEEM TO BE  
INTERESTED IN FINDING PLACES TO DEPOSIT  
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RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AND OTHER HAZARDOUS WASTE.  
THEY WERE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE ABANDONED  
TUNNELS OF SOME OF THE OLDER MINES WHERE THE COAL  
HAD PLAYED OUT. THE FRENCH, HE SAID, WERE  
INTERESTED IN THE GAS IN THE MINES. IT WASN'T  
CLEAR WHETHER THEY WERE INTERESTED IN NATURAL GAS  
DEPOSITS, OR IN THE COAL GASIFICATION PROCESS.  
NO ONE HAS YET SHOWN AN INTEREST IN OIL  
EXPLORATION, THE MINISTER SAID.

-

-----  
CROATS AND SERBS IN ZENICA  
-----

11. THE MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE  
CROATIAN POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE LEFT, THE  
CROATIANS WHO REMAIN IN ZENICA ARE WELL-  
REPRES-  
ENTED BY THEIR CHURCH LEADERS AND  
INTELLECTUALS IN THE COMMUNITY. THERE WERE  
22,000 CROATS IN THE ZENICA REGION BEFORE THE  
WAR. NOW THERE ARE 15,000. TWENTY PER CENT OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ARE DIVIDED  
EQUALLY BETWEEN THE SERB AND CROATIAN CITIZENS OF  
THE REGION. THERE WERE 20,000 SERBS IN THE  
ZENICA REGION BEFORE THE WAR. BETWEEN 10,000 AND  
15,000 REMAIN. THE LEADER OF THE LOCAL ORTHODOX  
CHURCH IS THEIR SPOKESMAN.

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CONCLUSION

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12. THIS VERY INFORMATIVE MEETING SHOWED THE  
MINISTER OF ZENICA TO BE A SOPHISTICATED,  
INTELLIGENT MAN WITH A FULL PLATE OF PROBLEMS AND  
PLANS TO HELP REBUILD HIS COUNTRY. THE RETURN TO  
NORMALIZATION WILL BE A DIFFICULT ROAD, BUT THE  
BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE LOOKING BEYOND  
IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES AND FORMULATING PLANS FOR  
LONG-TERM REDEVELOPMENT.

GALBRATH

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